GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:105
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
OPENING OF POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS
Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has not opened any new Post Offices since 2002 in the country;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) Whether the Government has any plan to increase the Post Offices especially in rural areas in the country; and

(d) If so, the number of Post Offices likely to be opened in the country including their location, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS

(a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 105 FOR 29TH NOVEMBER, 2006 REGARDING OPENING OF POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) No, Sir. During the year 2002-03 & 2003-04, 485 new Post Offices were opened throughout the country.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c)&(d) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms and availability of resources. Norms for opening of Post Offices is rural areas especially in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas are relaxed and highly subsidized.

In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Five Year Plan regarding rationalization of the postal network, no plan targets for opening of new Post Offices have been allotted since 2004-05. Therefore, if justification for opening a post office is found, it can only be opened on a case to case basis by relocation of an existing post office which is no longer justified, as per departmental norms at its present location.